

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

Claims 1-24 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Echizen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,728,408) in view of Braudaway et al. (U.S. Patent 5,925,892).

Echizen discloses the following in line 63 of col. 1 to line 8 of col. 2.

"It is an object of the present invention to provide digital watermark embedding/detecting techniques capable of minimizing the number of pixels to be changed in order to embed a digital watermark, while a reliability of detecting embedded data is maintained high.

It is another object of the invention to provide a digital watermark embedding method and system capable of suppressing as much as possible the quality of contents from being degraded upon modification of pixels.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a digital watermark, detecting method and system capable of detecting embedded data not only under the image condition but also under the condition of compression streams."

Echizen discloses a robust watermark, since even if you compress the watermark you can still read the watermark. Echizen system is a digital system.

Braudaway discloses the following lines 10-32 of col. 6.

"FIG. 1 shows a block diagram of a system embodiment for imparting a relatively invisible watermark on a digitized image in accordance with the present invention. FIG. 1 shows an image capture and distribution system 150 suitable for use in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. A scanner 100 captures image data 101 from a physical source 102. The physical source 102 is typically a painting or photograph. The image sends data 101 to a digital computer 104. The computer 104 includes a working storage 106 that is typically embodied in the computer's random access memory, an image storage system 108 that is often a conventional hard disk drive, and an image archive 110 that can be a tape or disk storage. The computer 104 also includes a number of software modules. These include front end image processing software 112

that performs image processing such as scaling and enhancement of the image data provided by the scanner 100. It also includes color preserving watermarking software 114 operating in accordance with the principles of the present invention, and back-end image processing software 116 that performs other processing functions such as compression on the watermarked image."

Braudaway discloses a robust means off watermarking,

Echizen and/or Braudaway do not disclose or anticipate creating fragile watermarks i.e. provide secure documents with printed images that incorporate special features, sometimes referred to as "fragile watermarks", wherein copying of the printed image results in changes of the feature in the copy relative to the original image in a manner that can be convenience. (See paragraph 0003 of Applicants specification.)

Echizen and/or Braudaway also do not disclose or anticipate steps e, and f of claim 1 as amended, namely (e) creating a fragile watermark by adjusting respective values of at least some of the pixel data in each of at least some of the data blocks to shift the average value of the pixel data in the respective data block toward the target for the respective data block; and (f) printing a printed image with the fragile watermark on the basis of the image data after adjustment according to step(e).

Echizen and/or Braudaway also do not disclose or anticipate the step f of claim 11, as amended namely, (f) determining whether the PIUE is the original printed images with the fragile watermark

Echizen and/or Braudaway also do not disclose or anticipate step f of claim 18 as amended namely, (f) determining whether the PIUE is the original printed image with the fragile watermark.

In view of the above claims 1-24 as amended are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions would the Examiner please contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Please charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 16-1885.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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